

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 3, amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 as follows:

The invention ~~recognises~~recognizes and exploits that program configuration data generally has a regular and ordered structure and well defined ranges of valid configuration parameters such that the program configuration data can be well represented as XML data. Once the configuration data is represented as XML data, then existing tools and resources that are provided for the validation of XML data may be applied to the representation of the configuration data as XML data in order to validate that configuration data. This provides a low overhead, flexible and reliable technique for managing program configuration data.

Page 3, amend the paragraph beginning at line 10 as follows:

It will be appreciated that the program configuration data could take a wide variety of forms. As previously discussed, the program configuration data could be registry data associated with the operating system of the computer concerned. Alternatively, program ~~initialisation~~initialization data, such as “ini” data could form the configuration data. Another possibility is that the configuration data may in its native form be XML data. Generally any configuration store whose data can be mapped into XML data can be used.